

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Species: Furbearers

Region: Statewide

Hunting District:

Year: 2013

1. **Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).**

FWP proposes for the Commission to adopt a new requirement of a 300 foot setback for ground sets on public land along specific, high recreational use trails. Since the 1999 furbearer season, traps set on the ground have been required to be set back from public land roads and trails to reduce incidences with traps and recreationists accompanied by domestic dogs. From 1999 to 2005 a 30-foot setback was in place and from 2006 to present a 50 foot setback has been required for furbearer traps and snares. Since the 2008 -09 season, trappers have been required to report domestic dog captures to FWP. With this information we have evaluated incidences of domestic dog captures in traps on public land and have since identified public land trails which are particularly high use recreational trails.

2. **Why is the proposed change necessary?**

FWP proposes to further reduce the incidence of conflicts between trappers and recreationist with domestic dogs by requiring a greater setback distance along specific high recreational use trails.

3. **What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).**

Furbearer trapping is a cultural, economic, and recreational activity for some residents of Montana. FWP manages furbearer populations to provide this opportunity for trappers to harvest a variety of species. This proposal was developed to help maintain trapping as a viable wildlife management tool on the landscape, particularly on public lands.

4. **Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, temperature / precipitation information).**

N/A

5. **Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).**

Trappers have expressed some dislike for additional restrictive regulations. However, this proposal could further reduce the level of conflicts between trappers and other recreationist. The non-trapping public has expressed a desire to FWP to see some additional ground set setbacks and in some regions, FWP staff, local trappers, and members of the non-trapping public have met to discuss this issue.

Submitted by: Brian Giddings

Date: 5/20/13

Approved: _____
Regional Supervisor / Date

Disapproved / Modified by: _____
Name / Date

Reason for Modification: